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Labor & Workforce Development Agency

NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 12, 2008

News Release No.: 08-08

State Announces \$5.4 Million in Job Training Grants for California Veterans

SACRAMENTO – Continuing Governor Schwarzenegger's commitment to veterans, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency today announced \$5.4 million in innovative grants to combine job training and counseling services that will help 1,200 former service men and women, many of them returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, transfer their military skills to good civilian jobs.

"These grants show that we are committed to honoring our veterans in deed as well as word. At the same time, they provide a much-needed stimulus to the California economy," said Patrick Henning, Employment Development Department Director. "We are opening the way to a successful future in civilian life to those who volunteered to serve our nation. The grants offer employment training as well as counseling and mental health assistance to help veterans transition smoothly into new jobs with good wages."

Grants will be awarded to six local entities and will help fill existing gaps in veterans' services and better assist veterans with their integration into civilian life. One of the grantees, WestCare California, Inc., will receive \$998,008 to provide services to 200 veterans in the San Joaquin Valley who face employment barriers, including depression, substance abuse, mental health issues, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), lack of transportation and homelessness.

Recipients of the job grants designated to help veterans include:

Applicant	County	Grant
Imperial Valley ROP	Imperial	\$1,000,000
Marin Services for Women	Marin	\$916,644
Managed Career Solutions, Inc.	Los Angeles	\$1,000,000
Swords to Plowshares	San Francisco	\$1,000,000
Los Angeles Works	Los Angeles	\$499,600
WestCare California	Fresno	<u>\$998,008</u>
Total Amount Approved		\$5,414,252

(more)

These grants, provided from Workforce Investment Act funds, include approximately \$2.7 million of the Governor's Discretionary 15 Percent funds and \$2.7 million of dislocated worker 25 Percent Additional Assistance funds. Funds will be allocated from two program years, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and will be subject to federal funding availability. The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for the funds.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.